

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 FEA-02

AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01

PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

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DRAFTED BY EB/ORF/FSE;LRRRAICHT:CJR

APPROVED BY EB/ORF - MR. KATZ

EUR/RPE - MR. TARRANT

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

S/PRS - MR. KING

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY
USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 212303

KUWAIT ALSO PASS DOHA

BEIRUT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 25, 1974

1. FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE IS TRANS-
SCRIPT OF DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMEN'S NOON BRIEFING,
SEPTEMBER 25, 1974:

MR. ANDERSON: ANY QUESTIONS? I HAVE NO ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Q. YES. CAN YOU TELL US AT ALL ABOUT THE SECRET CAMP
DAVID MEETING -- WHO'S GOING AND WHEN DOES IT ALL START,
AND WHEN DOES IT FINISH?

A. LET ME STRESS TWO OR THREE POINTS. NO. 1, THERE WILL
BE A MEETING THIS WEEKEND. WHEN I HAVE THE DETAILS
ON THE PARTICIPANTS, AS I'VE SAID -- AS MOST RECENTLY
AT 12:30 THIS MORNING IN NEW YORK -- I WILL GET THE
NAMES FOR YOU. BUT IT IS GOING TO BE AN INFORMAL
GATHERING. NO DECISIONS ARE GOING TO BE TAKEN. NO ACTION
IS EXPECTED TO COME OUT OF IT. IT WILL JUST BE AN
INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC
SITUATION.

Q. BOB, FOR OUR OWN PLANNING PURPOSES -- AND I'M SURE
YOU UNDERSTAND OUR PLIGHT -- MOST OF US WILL BE WORKING
THIS WEEKEND -- IS THERE ANY ADVANTAGE TO GOING UP
TO CAMP DAVID FOR NEWSMEN -- OR NOBODY WILL SPEAK TO US
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DOWN THERE?

A. I CANNOT GUIDE YOU ON THAT.

Q. WELL, CAN YOU GUIDE US ON THE DAY?

A. ON BACKGROUND HERE --

Q. YES.

A. -- MY GUESS IS THAT IN VIEW OF THE VERY INFORMAL,
PRIVATE NATURE OF THIS MEETING -- AND I'M THINKING
BACK HERE TO A MEETING OF TWO WEEKS AGO - THREE WEEKS

AGO OVER IN PARIS, WHERE THERE WAS A VERY INFORMAL GATHERING -- THE PRESS WAS NOT PRESENT, THE PARTICIPANTS DID NOT SEE THE PRESS; BUT I HAVE NO DIRECT GUIDANCE THAT I CAN GIVE YOU. IT'S JUST MY OWN FEELING ON THIS FOR THIS WEEKEND.

Q. WELL, FOR MORE THAN A WEEK NOW, WHILE THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN HAS BEEN FENDING OFF QUESTIONS -- ALL QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT -- IT HAS BEEN, AS YOU KNOW, WIDELY REPORTED IN THIS COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD WHO THE PARTICIPANTS ARE AND THE SUBJECT OF THE DISCUSSION. WHY IS IT AT THIS LATE DATE THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT STILL REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHO THE PARTICIPANTS WILL BE AND WHAT THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE SUBJECT IS?

A. WELL, ON THE SECOND PART OF IT, MURREY, I DON'T THINK IT'S QUITE FAIR TO SAY THAT I HAVE NOT BEEN DISCUSSING THE GENERAL NATURE OF THE MEETING. I HAVE SAID THAT REPEATEDLY, AND I REPEAT IT AGAIN HERE THIS MORNING.

AS FOR THE SPECIFIC ANSWER ON EXACTLY WHO'S GOING TO BE THERE, WHEN IT IS ALL FINALLY SET AND WE KNOW EXACTLY WHO'S COMING YOU WILL HAVE IT.

Q. BOB, ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T KNOW THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE OR YOU'RE NOT SURE YET?
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A. I DO NOT KNOW THE NAMES OF ALL THE PEOPLE.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE COUNTRIES? CAN WE ASSUME THAT THE FIVE COUNTRIES MENTIONED IN THIS REPORT --

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THE NAMES OF THE COUNTRIES THAT MAY BE REPRESENTED THERE, AT THIS TIME.

Q. ON THE UNITED STATES SIDE, YOU CERTAINLY HAVE SOME IDEA WHO'S GOING TO BE THERE -- ON THE UNITED STATES SIDE.

A. I ASSUME THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL BE THERE AND SECRETARY SIMON.

WHETHER THERE WILL BE OTHERS GOING UP ON THE U.S. SIDE, I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q. YOU CAN'T SAY WHO'S BEEN INVITED?

A. NO. I CAN NOT, AT THIS TIME.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHETHER IT'S GOING TO BE A ONE-DAY AFFAIR OR --

A. I CAN'T. I DON'T HAVE THE PROGRAM YET, THE DETAILS OF IT.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY THE "INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION," ARE YOU ATTEMPTING TO AVOID SAYING THAT IT WILL DEAL WITH THE OIL/ENERGY PRICING DILEMMA THAT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE AT SOME GREAT PUBLIC LENGTH?

A. ON THIS POINT, AGAIN, MURREY, I BELIEVE FOR THE LAST 10 DAYS I HAVE CONSISTENTLY SAID THAT I WOULD ASSUME THAT THE SUBJECT OF ENERGY WOULD PROBABLY COME UP AT THIS INFORMAL DISCUSSION BECAUSE, OBVIOUSLY, IT'S A VERY IMPORTANT ELEMENT WHEN ONE TALKS ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION. I'M ON THE RECORD UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THAT NUMEROUS TIMES. I HAVEN'T REFUSED TO TALK ABOUT THAT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY INTENTION --

Q. EXCUSE ME, LET ME FINISH.

Q. O.K.

Q. YOU SAY YOU ASSUME THAT IT, THE SUBJECT, WOULD PROBABLY COME UP.

A. YES.

Q. DO YOU MEAN BY THAT THAT IT IS NOT THE MAJOR FOCUS OF THIS MEETING?

A. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, IT IS NOT THE MAJOR FOCUS OF THIS MEETING. THERE IS NO SET AGENDA THAT I'M AWARE OF AT ALL. IT'S JUST AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION THAT WILL TAKE PLACE.

Q. BOB, I DON'T UNDERSTAND. ALL THESE MINISTERS HAVE BEEN IN NEW YORK. WHY BRING THEM ALL TO CAMP DAVID TO DISCUSS THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION, UNLESS THERE IS SOMETHING VERY SPECIFIC THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS IN MIND TO TALK ABOUT AT CAMP DAVID AND DOES NOT WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT ELSEWHERE?

A. AS I RECALL, DARIUS, YOU ASKED THE SAME QUESTION 10 DAYS AGO; AND I POINTED OUT AT THAT TIME THAT THE FINANCE MINISTERS ARE ALL GOING TO BE HERE IN WASHINGTON

ATTENDING THE IMF-IBRD MEETING, SO ONE COULD ASSUME THAT IS A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE, AT LEAST, TO SOME OF THE PARTICIPANTS WHO WILL ALREADY BE HERE. AND SOME OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ARE COMING DOWN, AS YOU KNOW, FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR MEETINGS HERE IN WASHINGTON. AND I DON'T SEE ANYTHING VERY MYSTERIOUS ABOUT THE FACT THAT IT WOULD BE HELD UP AT CAMP DAVID.

Q. BOB, WHY ONLY FIVE? REPORTEDLY, THERE ARE ONLY FIVE
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COUNTRIES INVOLVED HERE. WHY NOT MORE, SINCE THERE ARE GOING TO BE SO MANY MORE FINANCE MINISTERS? AND WHY THE SECRECY? I ASSUME THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF ANNOUNCING THIS MEETING BEFORE IT WAS HELD UNTIL THE JAPANESE LEAKED IT.

A. I'M NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF THE SPECIFIC PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETINGS THIS WEEKEND, AT THIS TIME, KEN. I JUST CAN'T DO IT.

Q. BOB, ON A RELATED SUBJECT --

A. YES.

Q. -- THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE SAID TODAY THAT THE UNITED STATES IS NOT CONTEMPLATING ANY MILITARY ACTION AGAINST THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY NARROWER GUIDANCE ON WHAT EXACTLY THIS ADMINISTRATION DOES HAVE IN MIND TO TRY TO INSURE A REASONABLE FLOW OF OIL AT A REASONABLE PRICE?

A. LET ME MAKE A COUPLE OF POINTS -- GENERAL POINTS -- HERE, JIM. THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF STATEMENTS IN THE PRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S SPEECH, IN ESSENCE, SIGNAL CONFRONTATION WITH THE OIL PRODUCERS. AND THESE STATEMENTS OF AMERICAN POLICY WERE NOT MADE IN THE SPIRIT OF CONFRONTATION, NOR DO WE EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE ANY CONFRONTATION.

INSOFAR AS WHAT SPECIFIC ACTIONS, SOLUTIONS -- THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED AMONG CONSUMERS. AND WE WILL BE TALKING, I AM SURE, WITH OUR ARAB FRIENDS, IN ADDITION. BUT I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THERE IS NO SPIRIT OF ANY CONFRONTATION HERE AT ALL.

Q. THAT WAS SAID IN THE SPEECHES ALSO, BOB. BUT I MUST SAY THE READING OF THE SPEECHES DOESN'T LEND MUCH SUPPORT TO YOUR STATEMENT. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WANTS TO SAY ONE THING IN ONE FORUM, AND ANOTHER IN ANOTHER, FOR DIPLOMATIC REASONS?

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A. NO.

Q. BOB, CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE RHETORIC IN BOTH THOSE SPEECHES? IN OTHER WORDS, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE A MAGICIAN TO UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS A MUCH WORDED SPEECH -- IN BOTH THE SECRETARY'S AND THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECHES.

NOW, WE'VE HAD A YEAR OF THE OIL PRICES GOING UP. WE'VE NEVER HAD THAT KIND OF RHETORIC, EXCEPT IN THE LAST WEEK OR SO. WHAT WAS THE MOTIVATION FOR THAT KIND OF LANGUAGE?

A. WELL, I THINK THAT THE MOTIVATION, FRANKLY, WAS ALSO INCLUDED IN THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH. AT ONE POINT I BELIEVE HE SAID THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO PUT THE FACTS -- IF YOU WILL, THE PROBLEM -- THAT WE ALL FACE. AND BY "ALL", I MEAN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. AND WE ALL HAVE A PROBLEM HERE THAT WE HAVE TO FACE TOGETHER AND TRY AND SOLVE TOGETHER.

Q. WELL, WHAT WAS THE MAIN ELEMENT IN CHOOSING THIS TIMING? WAS IT THE DECISION AT VIENNA NOT TO LOWER PRICES -- AND, IN FACT, TO RAISE THEM -- OR WAS IT THE DECISION AT BRUSSELS FOR THE CONSUMERS TO BEGIN TO GET TOGETHER TO COMBAT THIS TYPE OF PRICING?

A. AS FOR THE TIMING, THERE WAS THE WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE, WHICH HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR SOME TIME, IN DETROIT. THAT SEEMED TO ME A VERY LOGICAL FORUM IN WHICH TO PUT FORWARD THESE THOUGHTS. AND, FURTHERMORE, ANOTHER VERY LOGICAL FORUM WOULD BE -- OR WAS -- THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHICH HAS JUST OPENED.

Q. WELL, BOB, GOING BACK TO MY QUESTION, CAN YOU GIVE US ANY BETTER IDEA OF WHAT SORT OF ACTIONS WE CONTEMPLATE?

A. I CAN NOT, AT THIS TIME. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT IS GOING TO BE DISCUSSED, AND I JUST CAN'T GIVE YOU ANY SPECIFICS ON IT AT THIS TIME.

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Q. WELL, CAN YOU FOCUS IT THIS WAY: ARE YOU THINKING IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC POLICY, OR PERHAPS MILITARY-ASSISTANCE LEVERAGE -- OR CAN YOU GIVE US ANY GUIDANCE AT ALL?

A. WELL, ON THE QUESTION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY

SALES, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THAT VERY CLEARLY THIS MORNING IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE -- THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE USED AS A LEVERAGE IN ANY WAY WHATSOEVER.

AND ONE OTHER POINT THAT HAS BEEN TALKED ABOUT IN THE LAST DAY OR SO WAS THIS TALK OF POSSIBLE MILITARY ACTION HERE. AND I BELIEVE THAT SECRETARY SCHLESINGER ADDRESSED HIMSELF TO THAT THIS MORNING ALSO.

BUT, ON THAT, I'D LIKE TO JUST SAY THAT THIS KIND OF SPECULATION IS JUST COMPLETELY IRRESPONSIBLE. AND, AS I SAID EARLIER, WE'RE NOT IN ANY CONFRONTATION WITH OIL PRODUCERS, AND WE DON'T APPROACH THE PROBLEM IN A SPIRIT OF CONFRONTATION. THIS PROBLEM HAS GOT TO BE SOLVED THROUGH COOPERATION WITH ALL CONCERNED. THAT'S THE WAY IT HAS TO BE.

Q. BOB, SOME OF THE OPEC COUNTRIES, AND THE OPEC MANAGEMENT -- THE SECRETARY-GENERAL -- HAVE CLEARLY, IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS, INTERPRETED THESE POLICY STATEMENTS BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AS MADE IN THE SPIRIT OF CONFRONTATION. ARE THEY SAYING SOMETHING DIFFERENTLY IN PRIVATE?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY'RE SAYING IN PRIVATE, BUT I --

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT TODAY OF A SAUDI ARABIAN PROTEST THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS, INDICATING THEIR DISPLEASURE AT THESE PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

A. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY SAUDI ARABIAN PROTEST AND ON THAT POINT ALL I CAN DO IS REFER YOU TO WHAT OIL MINISTER YAMANI SAID PUBLICLY ON THIS SUBJECT THAT I READ IN THE PRESS --

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Q. BOB --

A. -- WHICH WAS QUITE TO THE CONTRARY.

Q. WHAT REACTION HAS THE MISSION IN NEW YORK RECEIVED TO THE SECRETARY'S SPEECH? FROM THE DELEGATIONS, THAT IS.

A. I DID NOT CHECK WITH THE MISSION ON SPECIFIC REACTIONS.

Q. BOB, YOU STARTED OUT BY SAYING AT THIS MEETING AT CAMP DAVID NO DECISIONS ARE GOING TO BE TAKEN AND NO ACTION IS GOING TO COME OUT OF IT.

A. RIGHT.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING?

A. TO HAVE AN INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF, OBVIOUSLY, VERY COMPLICATED ASPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SITUATION.

Q. AFTER ALL THE URGENCY FOCUSED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE ON THIS ONE, SINGLE OVER-RIDING ISSUE, THE PRESUMPTION IN ADVANCE IS THAT THERE WILL BE NO ACTION COMING OUT OF THIS MEETING?

A. THERE WILL BE NO ACTION COMING OUT OF THIS MEETING.

Q. THAT'S NOT A PRESUMPTION; THAT'S A STATEMENT.

A. I AM STATING THAT, YES. KISSINGER

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THE HAGUE
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ALGIERS
JIDDA
TRIPOLI
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